77-0070

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5 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Mike Wallace, CBS

5 January 1977, 11:15 a.m.

Mike Wallace raised several subjects with me:

1. Agee. Mike told me that he had recently been in London, and that he sat down with Agee. Agee feels the CIA is behind the British move to have Agee deported from England. I told Mike (on a totally off-the-record basis) that this is not true and that if any agency of the United States Government was leaning on England to deport Agee, I would know about it. He wanted to know if we could cooperate if they did a piece on Agee, and I told him that we could not; that we were confined by guidelines where we would not be able to discuss citizens; and that the whole subject was very, very sensitive. I further told him that in my personal view -- still off-the-record -- Agee is not a simple nice reformer. I did not go beyond that. I also told Mike that I would hate to see a story where Agee came out as a nice reformer with a lot of people ganging up on him because of this, and that I worried since we weren't going to be in a position to cooperate with Mike, this is the way it would turn out. He agreed that was a risk. I did not get the feeling he was going ahead for sure with an Ages 3 for

Mike was wondering if we could give him any information that would substantiate charges. I told him that there was a lot of stuff published on Chile, and that the hearings had gone into it extensively but that the Agency would not be able to cooperate by giving him information on allegations. He was particularly interested in charges that the real "abuses" didn't happen under the Nixon Administration, but happened when McCone was Director and Kennedy was in the White House. I told him that we just would not be able to help him on the that.

3. "Face the Nation." Mike made a rather flattering reference to my appearance on "Face the Nation." I told him I didn't like to be in a position where I had to say no all the time; he replied that he felt it had come over very well, and that he felt people across the country would understand my inability to cooperate fully.

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